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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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March 31, 2005

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INDEPENDENT

Mr. Paul Tagliabue  
Commissioner  
National Football League  
280 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Commissioner Tagliabue:

On March 17, 2005, the Committee on Government Reform held a hearing on Major League Baseball and its current drug testing policy. As the Committee has stated publicly numerous times, its focus on the issue of performance-enhancing drug use in sports is not limited to professional baseball. The hearing was the first in a series for the Committee as part of its ongoing investigation into steroid policies for professional and amateur sports.

As part of this investigation, we are requesting basic information on steroid policies and steroid testing from a number of sports leagues. As such, we ask that the National Football League (NFL) provide the Committee with the following information:

1. A complete copy of the current drug testing policy, as well as each drug testing policy that has been in place since NFL began testing for performance-enhancing drugs. The documents provided should include, but not be limited to:
  - a. details of the testing protocol;
  - b. how the testing is conducted;
  - c. the notice provided to players prior to testing;
  - d. how random testing is conducted;
  - e. protocol for offseason;
  - f. protocol for players residing outside of the United States during the offseason, if applicable; and
  - g. the protocol for disclosing the identity of players who test positive.
2. For each drug policy provided under #1, provide the specifics as to how the policies were formulated and negotiated between NFL and other entities.
3. Annual summary information on all performance-enhancing drug test results since the NFL began testing for such drugs. The Committee is requesting summary information, and does not require identification of individual players. This request includes, but is not limited to:

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue

March 31, 2005

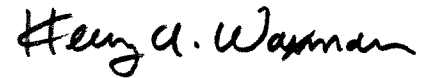
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- a. the number of tests conducted each year;
- b. the number of players tested each year;
- c. the specific substances tested;
- d. the number of positive test results;
- e. the number of positive tests for each specific drug.

We request that the NFL hand deliver two copies of this information by 6:00 p.m. on April 8, 2005. One copy is to be delivered to the majority staff at room 2157 in the Rayburn House Office Building and one copy is to be delivered to the minority staff at room B-350A in the Rayburn House Office Building. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Anne Marie Turner, Counsel for Majority, at (202) 225-5074, and Brian Cohen, Professional Staff for Minority at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Davis  
Chairman

  
Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member